

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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## Conference Address of Pres. George Albert Smith

Following is the full text of the address by President George Albert Smith at the opening session of general conference, Friday, October 5, 1945.

I WONDER if anyone here feels as weak and humble as the man who stands before you. I have been coming to this house since my infancy. I have seen all

I have seen the Church continue to grow in numbers, and have realized throughout all my years that the Church of Jesus Christ is what its name implies. We who are members of this Church are indeed fortunate to have found the light and to have accepted the truth.

In the year 1830 the Church was organized with six members. The adversary of all righteousness has from that day to the present sought to impede its progress and destroy it. I wonder if that great man, Joseph Smith, who gave his life that the Church might be organized and carried on as the Lord intended, could see the Church as it exists to-day, with its branches established in all parts of the world, and realize that each and every day since he was martyred, since he laid down his life and sealed his testimony with his blood, that the Church has each day been stronger than the day before.

From this stand addresses have been delivered by some of the great teachers of the world. Some of the greatest scriptorians have explained the gospel from here, and men and women from everywhere have worshipped here. Yesterday this house was apparently as full of the membership of the Women's Relief Society of the Church as it is to-day with both men and women to-



Pres. George Albert Smith.

the Presidents of the Church since that time sustained by the congregations here, as their names have been presented from this stand.

gether. Through that great organization, the Relief Society, begun by the Prophet Joseph, was given to womankind the dispensation of representing the Lord in their way as daughters, as wives, as mothers, and as representatives of their kind in all the world.

We have had sustained here to-day various of the quorums of the priesthood, each one directed in its organization by our Heavenly Father. It was not a matter of personal wisdom on the part of individuals. In each case there was necessity for the group organization, and as the Church grew and multiplied in numbers, the quorums have correspondingly increased until to-day in all parts of the world there are men divinely appointed, set apart and endowed with divine authority who can stand and testify that they know whereof they speak when they testify that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, who died that we might all live.

**The Church that He organized in His day represented His Father and Himself in all the parts of the world where it was established. In our day, by His direction, of Jesus Christ our Lord, this Church was organized. It wasn't organized from just the imagination of men and women. There came a necessity that the priesthood of the living God be restored. Only a youth was found to begin the work. When he was less than fifteen years of age Joseph Smith lived at or near Palmyra, New York State, on a little farm. He was confused about what he should do, or which Church he should join. The various denominations in that community were holding revival meetings and one group was saying "This is the way," and another, "This is the way," until he, being naturally of a religious turn of mind, having lived in a home where the Bible, the Holy Scripture, was read, found in one passage of James where it said: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."**

Although a boy only fourteen years of age, a faith and an assurance came to him after reading this scripture. So he went right out into the woods, into one of God's

first temples, and bowed down upon the ground and asked the Lord in his confusion, "Which of these churches shall I join?" I have no doubt he was surprised when the answer came to him, "Join none of them." And then he was told that if he would obey the direction of our Heavenly Father, an important mission would be given for him to perform under divine direction. Now that was not the idea of a man who desired to deceive; it was the humble, simple faith of a boy. So he continued following the inspiration of the Lord. He continued carrying out the directions that were given to him by holy beings, the result of which was the uncovering in the Hill Cumorah of the golden plates from which the Book of Mormon, the history of the ancestors of the American Indians, was translated and published. Since then that book has been scattered to the ends of the world, having been published in many languages. He was only a young man when that occurred. When the time came for its publication he was ridiculed. People derided him and called him a money digger because he worked for a living and had to earn that living part of the time digging in the earth. But they didn't look upon him as a servant of the Lord; neither did the majority of the people in the days of the Saviour accept Jesus of Nazareth as a servant of the Lord. The great majority rejected Christ and rejected each of His followers who became members of the Quorum of the Twelve.

**Joseph Smith persisted in his work and when the Book of Mormon was finally about to come from the press, after having been translated by the gift and power of God, for it was in a language unknown to him, the people in the neighbourhood of Palmyra agreed that they would not buy it, thinking that they would thwart the bringing forth of the book. They supposed that their refusal to purchase it would make impossible the completion of its publication.**

There had been written in that book at the time of its compilation the statement that the book would be received by many people. Joseph Smith didn't eliminate that suggestion when it came to publication. When the people said, We'll not read it, he

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# Youths Will Prove Able Missionaries

## Digest of Last Conference Address

By ELDER NICHOLAS G. SMITH, Assistant to The Council of the Twelve  
(Third Session)

**T**HIS conference has been a thrilling one for all of us, I am sure. When President Joseph F. Smith was first voted upon as President of the Church in solemn assembly, I had the privilege of sitting in and voting for him. When President Grant was chosen, I was in Africa and missed that opportunity. Yesterday, as my own brother was voted upon, I thrilled to the very fingertips. And in the selection of the new apostle, I rejoiced greatly. I had been the bishop in the ward where his family resided and on many occasions I had had the opportunity to say "that Cowley family is a model." And to see this young man come home from a mission field endowed with the great gift, the gift of spirit and vision and by selecting him as one of the Twelve, shows us how our Heavenly Father works, and I am so pleased with that selection.

This morning, I sat and conversed with an 18-year-old girl. She had spent most of her life away from the wards and the stakes and rather out amongst the people attending schools. Her associates were not members of her own Church. She has been more or less on the defence all her life and has not quite realized it. Last year she spent some time in a private school in one of the large cities in the east. There in attendance were girls of prominent families, people who knew no God as she knew him. And in her association with these other girls, she said that they seemed to be looking for something. Constantly they were asking me why I was so happy. One girl I talked with for some hours said, 'I see what you mean. I think I understand.' But she didn't know just what to do about it all. And then she said, 'What is it that gives you this; that make you so contented and happy?'

And this 18-year-old girl said, "I have been talking to you pure Mormonism."

**T**hose of our children who are raised in the homes of faithful Latter-day Saints, when they go out into the world have a

great ability to do good. Just before coming to this meeting, a father came into my office with his son 22 years of age. He just returned from overseas where he spent a couple of years. Then he wanted to go on a mission. I questioned him as to his chastity and he assured me that he had kept himself clean and spotless, although he had been engaged in a great conflict. He had seen much, but in his visit over there, he had seen saints and their effect upon him had been of an uplifting nature. And now that he is back, he wants to go on another mission. He wants to give and not to kill.

They speak of peace, peace, but is there peace? When we read in the papers of the constant bickerings, the avarice of men that has been spoken about from this conference, the desire to get that which other men have, how tragic it is that this thing causes dissension and trouble throughout the universe and has been warned against since the beginning of time should have such a hold upon the people.

We Latter-day Saints have a great responsibility. And as Latter-day Saints, if we could but live our religion, what an effect it would have upon the people. As we go through out villages and towns and see our members working in their fields on the Sabbath Day, we wonder if they are thinking of giving, or whether they are thinking only of getting. If we could just mend that one thing and remember to observe and hold onto the Sabbath Day, then we would be better able to give, then the Lord would give in greater abundance. In the Ten Commandments, the last one is a great sermon to this world of ours and if we are ever going to have peace and if we are ever going to do away with war and contention, then we must put our lives in line with that Tenth Commandment.

"Thou shalt not covet. . . ."

Everyone is given to covetousness and

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## NICHOLAS G. SMITH

VERY many hearts throughout the Church have been made sad by the death of Nicholas G. Smith, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, on October 27th, 1945.

This is particularly true in the South African Mission for President Smith was dearly loved by all who knew him, and his influences in the mission has been a lasting one.

President Smith was born on June 20th, 1881, son of President John Henry Smith and Josephine Groesbeck Smith. He is a brother to our beloved President George Albert Smith.

He served longer than any other Mission President in South Africa and in a time when the old prejudices and hatred were so strong. He was our leader when the 'flu epidemic was to devastating in 1918, and many feel a debt of gratitude to him for preservation of their lives through his administration and faith.

He was here alone with his family after all the missionaries had returned home and others could not come because of the war. He served eight years as our leader.

We shall always be grateful to him for his wise purchase of our mission home and grounds upon which later a fine chapel and recreation hall were erected.

President Smith was 32 years of age when called to preside in this Mission. He and his wife, Sister Florence G. Smith, and their three sons immediately won the love of all the saints and elders, and all rejoiced in the privilege of their presence. Every missionary honoured them in their high calling and we loved them dearly so their watchful care and guidance. They loved all and very deeply loved by all.

It was a rare privilege to be a missionary under his leadership and there seemed to continue through the years a feeling that he would be very grieved if one of "his boys" relaxed from the spirit of the mission field or stepped aside from the responsibilities of the Gospel.

He was to us a father and we loved him as such.

"Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God."

"For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer

suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul that repented. Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people.

"And if it so be that you should labour all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father.

"And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me."

Doc. and Cov., Sec. 18, 10-16 incl.

He was a great missionary, he knew the worth of souls, his joy will be full for he served in Holland, South Africa, California and North Western States missions, as well as other responsible positions in the Church. A member of the High Council in the Salt Lake Stake, Bishop of the 17th Ward, Counsellor in the Salt Lake Temple Presidency, Acting Church Patriarch, and Assistant to the Council of the Twelve. This latter calling took him to the many stakes and missions of the Church as a preacher of righteousness.

Two of his four sons served as missionaries in this land and won the love of hundreds of friends and members. South Africa has been richly blessed by this fine family and as a mission we thank our Heavenly Father for them.

To Sister Smith and all her loved ones we express our sympathy, our love and humble prayers for your blessings and comfort.

J.B.S.

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saying peace, peace, when there is no peace.

A just God has warned us, my brothers and sisters, and now the spirit is speaking up and these thousands of young men will be returning home and they want to give the experiences that they have undergone . . . have prepared them much better now to go about in the mission field and tell of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Deseret News.

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did not take it out and say, Well, I can't fulfil this. If he had been writing the book himself he probably would have changed the script, but it was not his script, and so it went to the world. I was present a few years ago when the Smith Farm near the Hill Cumorah was purchased, and as I went in the neighbourhood I found only one copy of the Book of Mormon and that was owned by a man named Pliny T. Sexton, who was chancellor of the University of New York and the banker at Palmyra. He had an original copy of the Book of Mormon as it came from the press. The leaves had never been cut, and he kept it in the safe in the bank. I asked him, "Is there any place here where I can find a copy of the Book of Mormon?" He said, "I do not know." Then I began to inquire among the people and found that the people of Palmyra had kept their word. They had neither bought it nor would they read it. At that time Palmyra was a village and is still a village, but the Book of Mormon that was discredited at that time has been read and accepted by people in all parts of the earth, people from many nations, numbering hundreds of thousands, and the work is still going forward, fulfilling the prediction that it was to be made "known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Saviour of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved."

(I Nephi 13:40.)

Men may conspire to prevent the work of the Lord, as they have done when they are prompted by the adversary, but His work has continued to grow from that day until the present time. Of course, as the Church grew the people were compelled to move from their smaller places. Palmyra became too small and they moved to Kirtland, Ohio. That became undesirable, so they moved into Missouri, from which state they were banished by the edict of the governor, and many of them laid down their lives as martyrs to the cause. The people then moved across the Mississippi River into the State of Illinois. In less than seven years that group of people, led by the youthful Prophet who had now grown to be a man, erected buildings and a magnificent temple

which was the finest building in its day in the state of Illinois. In less than seven years Nauvoo became the largest city in the state regardless of persecution and everything being done to prevent the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the adversary could conspire, including murder and every other wrong that goes with it.

At that time Springfield was a city of about twelve thousand and Chicago had a population of about five thousand. The Prophet of the Lord told the people one day as they held a meeting in the grove near Nauvoo, "That the saints would continue to suffer much affliction and would be driven to the Rocky Mountains, many would apostatize, others would be put to death by our persecutors, or lose their lives in consequence or exposure or disease, and some of them would live to go and assist in making settlements and build cities and see the Saints become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains."

**Think of such a prediction at that time. The Saints were then four or five hundred miles east from where Omaha now is, and Omaha was still approximately a thousand miles from the Salt Lake Valley. For the Prophet of God to say that you will be driven from here and go fifteen hundred miles into the wilderness and there become a mighty people was a remarkable statement indeed. Has that prophecy been fulfilled? Our presence here to-day attests that it has.**

I could, if I had time, open to you the Doctrine and Covenants containing the prophecies, the revelations of God to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and show that one by one they have been fulfilled, not by Joseph Smith's power, but by the power of God. In referring to the advice and counsel contained in the 89th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord made this promise: "And all saints who remember to keep and do these things, walking in obedience to the commandments of God, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones, and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures." While Joseph Smith might write these words he couldn't fulfil that promise.

I stand here to-day as one of the humblest among you, as the result of the observance

of the requirements of that revelation and other commandments that God has given. It has placed the membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the tops of these everlasting mountains in a class by themselves. Not only do we have the lowest death rate of any people in all the world, but we have a high birthrate as well. That was the promise that was given by the Lord in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Lord said that the destroying angels should pass by us and not slay us if we kept His counsel. What has been another result? The age of men in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that means women too, of course, has increased until the average term of life among us is longer than among any other people in the world.

**Another promise:** The Lord said that He would give to those who would keep this word of wisdom, "great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures." I refer you to the February 1944 number of the Improvement Era wherein was published a graph showing the relative position of the states of the Union as to the number of scientists born in those states in proportion to population. Strange as it may seem, if you began at the lower corner of that graph and followed up state by state, you come to the State of Massachusetts next to the highest on the graph, yet you would not have reached the State of Utah. You have to go twenty percentage points higher up the graph to find Utah, the state that has produced more scientists born within its borders than any other state in the American Union. That wasn't an accident; it was a fulfilment of the promise of God as a result of observance of the Lord's commandments. And so I call attention this morning to the fact that when we do represent our Heavenly Father in the way that He has desired, these blessings follow and are not an accident. They are the direct fulfilment of God's promises through His Prophet.

And so to-day, my brethren, standing here in humility before you, I would like to express to you my gratitude that you have seen fit to promise that you will help the humble man who has been called to preside

over this Church as he strives to carry on by the inspiration of the Almighty. For this promise I am grateful, and I thank you that you have offered to do the same thing with regard to the two men who stand by my side as counsellors, loyal and true and devoted Latter-day Saints, who have done everything possible to make my responsibility easier for me to carry. You voted to sustain the Quorum of the Twelve, the quorum that I belonged to for so many years that I felt like a stranger, almost, when I walked out of it to occupy the position as President of the Church.

And so I might go on with all these quorums. You have held up your hands in the presence of God to sustain this body of men in the leadership of the Church. I assure you that if you will fulfil your promise, the blessings of our Heavenly Father will abide with you and in your homes and with your loved ones, and Zion will continue to grow and spread abroad, and the truth will be carried to every land and clime, and the power of the priesthood will be made manifest among our Father's children in many places where it has never yet even been heard. You men who are here, or who hold the priesthood, have that responsibility, and as one of the number, I would like to say, we can't let our own personal affairs stand in the way. If the call comes for us to divide the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our Father's other children, it will be our privilege as well as our duty to put our own affairs in order, and like Joseph Smith and the men who began with the Church in the early days, go where we may be called to go. One of our departed brethren, Melvin J. Ballard, used to sing so beautifully, "I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord; I'll be what you want me to be." That's the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Great is the joy that comes into the hearts of the men and the women who devote themselves to doing what our Heavenly Father desires them to do.

I would like to say to this great body of priesthood, you are fortunate men if you have been blessed with a good wife, a daughter of God to stand by your side. And I want to say to you that He loves her just as much as He loves you. If you would have His blessings you will treat

her with love and kindness and tenderness and helpfulness. She will then be able to carry on under the responsibilities that come to her to bring children into the world and nurture and care for them and teach them the plan of life and salvation. And so I plead with you, my brethren, let your homes be the abiding place of love, and the authority that you bear should magnify that love in your soul and in the lives of your wives and your children.

Yesterday this house was filled with the daughters of Zion, and I say without hesitation that you could find no more beautiful picture of womanhood in all the world than was here yesterday afternoon. These faithful wives, these faithful daughters, assume their portion of the burden and carry it on. They make their homes a heaven when sometimes without them the homes would be anything else but heaven.

So to-day, my brethren, I feel to say to you, grateful am I for membership in this Church. Thankful am I that I have lived among this people. I want to express my gratitude to hundreds of you who are here to-day for the courtesies and the hospitality that many of you have extended to me. I realize that it is not because of the man that you have extended these courtesies, but it was because he represented the Lord as His humble servant. You have earned your blessing and will continue to have it for all your kind deeds extended to His servants.

Now, as I stand here I realize that those who gave their lives in the early rise of the Church, including Joseph Smith and Hyrum, his brother, could have run away from the danger that threatened them. They knew, however, that that was not the thing their Heavenly Father desired. So they remained behind, after having finished their work; and under the leadership and direction of the Prophet, who by the way was the younger of the two brothers, builded a temple to God on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River in the beautiful city of Nauvoo, and they built it to completion far enough so that the ordinances of the holy priesthood were administered, and marriage for eternity was consummated therein. And since the erection of the Nauvoo Temple, the same blessings given there have followed

in the other temples to the number of ten. Think of it, my brethren. Beginning only a comparatively few years ago with six members, day by day the work of God has gone forward among the children of men. No longer are the Latter-day Saints despised as they used to be, because the adversary had misinterpreted them, but they are now respected by great and good men everywhere because of what has been accomplished. We could not have made these achievements except our Heavenly Father had made it possible for us to do it. So, how thankful we ought to be this day.

I ask that the Lord may take us to our homes when we have finished our labours with this conference, and that each of us will go back to the roof that shelters us, wherever it may be, with the renewed determination that God, being our helper, we will prove worthy of Him in whose image we have been created. If we will do that, there will radiate from our very presence wherever we go a power of righteousness and the communities in which we live will be blessed thereby.

I am grateful to these wonderful organizations, without naming them, that have carried their part of the responsibility. You voted for the leadership of them here to-day. I am grateful for the Tabernacle Choir and the other glorious choirs that we have throughout the Church. I would like to say that I think this marvellous Tabernacle Choir and Organ that holds forth every Sabbath day has preached the gospel to the ends of the earth, because its programme has been carried everywhere. And then we have the Singing Mothers of the Relief Society. They not only do what the Lord desires them to do in their lives, but they sing praises to Him and teach others to do the same.

How blessed we are in this house, sanctified to God by the teachings that have been given here by righteous men and women. Here we are to-day, not as a mixed, conglomerate community, but as a band of brothers and sisters, worshipping at the same shrine, praying to the same God, living the same gospel, keeping our homes under the supervision of the same spirit. I don't know how any one of us can enjoy these

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## Sunday School Sacrament Gem and Concert Recitations for February, 1946

### SACRAMENT GEM.

'Tis sweet to sing the matchless love  
Of Him who left His home above,  
And came to earth—O wondrous plan—  
To suffer, bleed and die, for man.

### GOSPEL DOCTRINE.

Say unto this people: Choose ye this day,  
to serve the Lord God who made you.

P.G.P., Moses 6:33.

### GOSPEL MESSAGE.

Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of  
Him who created you?—Alma 5:15.

### SENIORS.

For I say unto you that whatsoever is  
good cometh from God, and whatsoever is  
evil cometh from the devil.—Alma 5:40.

### JUNIORS.

And little children also have eternal life.

Mosiah 15:25.

### INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

Therefore, blessed are ye if ye continue  
in my goodness.—D. and C. 86:11.

### PRIMARY.

We believe that men will be punished for  
their own sins, and not for Adam's trans-  
gression.

### KINDERGARTEN.

Three small things that I can do  
To show my love, dear Lord, for you.  
• A prayer I'll say before I sleep,  
Another at the dawn's first peep,  
My heart can hold a happy song  
To carry with me all day long.

## Branch Teacher's Message, February, 1946

### "SERVICE"

DURING the depression, a bishop and his sons were planning how to meet a difficult obligation. Failure to meet it would mean financial ruin. As they studied their nearly exhausted resources, one of the sons made this remark to his father, "If we only had a part of what you oversubscribed on the new chapel it would be easy." Here was a challenge! How would the father answer? Carefully he reviewed in his mind how their investments had failed. Then he said, "The bank has closed our stocks and bonds are worthless. The livestock and remaining property may be lost to us, but the chapel still stands with no depreciation. Furthermore, it contributes largely to a service that I am trying to render to this community. This service takes a lot of my time, but it pays dividends in friends and in the joy it brings to both them and me."

Here is an attitude not always displayed. Frequently Latter-day Saints are called upon to contribute to the building of new chapels, but do they consider the dual nature of the blessings they may receive? It is upon service that the emphasis of true living should be placed. The world recognizes and remembers only those who have been useful to it.

Social trends that bear influence to-day, often lead to overindulgence in ease and pleasure seeking. Pleasure from the stand-point of diversion and wholesome recreation is necessary. However, if indulged in to an excess, it usually creates an insatiable desire for more, that is only satisfied so long as it is being realized. Card playing, daily attendance at movies, partying in taverns and cheap dance halls with their attendant ills, reading of cheap, worthless novels and magazines, and worse perhaps of all the squandering of time in doing nothing. Such living "stains the past, dishonours the present, and darkens the future."

In contrast it has been said that, "The highest of distinctions is service to others." Service usually denotes devotion to a cause with an objective that carries beyond the present in which two or more persons are

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# DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## Durban Branch.

**Louis Duncan, Branch President, 137, Montpielier Road, Durban, Natal.**

Natal District Conference held in Durban on Sunday, December 2nd, was well attended and a fine spirit prevailed. President and Sister Sharp and their daughter Helen spent five days visiting with members and friends of the Church. During the Sunday service Brother Harry Spear was sustained as First Counsellor in the Branch Presidency. Saturday evening, December 1st, a Branch Social was held and games and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

## East London Branch.

**B. A. T. Jubber, Branch President, 5, Nahoon View Road, East London.**

The Branch Conference was held Thursday evening, December 6th, at the home of Brother and Sister Toughay, a fine meeting was held and our Missionary Brother E. J. Jakins and President and Sister Sharp were the speakers. Brother Lance Jubber was sustained First Counsellor in the Branch Presidency. Three days were spent in visiting the members and friends.

## Port Elizabeth Branch.

**Robert K. F. Doller, Branch President, 18, Caithness Street, Walmer, Port Elizabeth.**

President and Sister Sharp arrived in Port Elizabeth, Sunday morning, December 9th, and during the day Branch Conference meetings were held—at 10.30 Sunday morning and 7 p.m. Sunday evening with a Branch Officers' and Teachers' meeting at 5.30. During the evening service Brother Otto Doller was released from the Branch Presidency and Sunday School superintendency, and Sister Olive Scheckle was released as Sunday School Secretary. Brother Ernest Doller was sustained as Second Counsellor in the Branch Presidency and Sunday School Superintendent and Sister Olive Scheckle was sustained as the Second Assistant and Sister Queenie Everton as Sunday School Secretary. Sunday morning President Sharp blessed and named the infant daughter of Brother and Sister Otto Doller.

## Bloemfontein Branch.

**Brother C. B. Spear, Branch President, P.O. Box 50, Bloemfontein.**

Brother and Sister C. B. Spear have been spending their holiday in Stellenbosch and at Cape Town, where they have been meeting many friends and members and visiting places of interest in the Peninsula. President and Sister Sharp had the pleasure of visiting in the home of Brother and Sister Shelves in Moltens.

## Mowbray Branch.

**Brother Thomas Wilson, Branch President, "St. George's Villa," Forest Road, Rendebosch.**

Friday, November 30th, the M.I.A. enjoyed a beach party at Muizenberg; 22 were in attendance and all enjoyed an enjoyable evening. Sunday evening, December 2nd, the Branch Genealogical Committee conducted a fine Sunday evening service, and the speakers for the evening were Sister Edith Wiid and Brother John Wilson. Friday evening, December 14th, the Scouts conducted a very successful dancing party in the Recreation Hall. It was well attended and the refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Monday, December 17th, the Branch enjoyed an outing at the seaside. Brother Leslie Halse and family and with two lorries supplied the transport for the Epping Garden and Mowbray Sunday School members. They left "Cumorah" at 8.30 and travelled to Hout Bay, where bathing and games and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Sunburns were numerous but all had a very good time, and returned to "Cumorah" at 6.30 p.m.

## Transvaal District.

**N. G. Muir, District President, 11, Johannes Street, Troyeville, Johannesburg.**

During the month Brother I. C. Louw visited Liahona and Brother Norman G. Muir visited the Springs Branch, and both were speakers at these meetings. Bro. and Sister Muir also visited the North Western Branch for their Sunday School and evening service, and we are very pleased to report the presence of the Steyn family. Many visits were made during the day and greatly

enjoyed. Sister Muriel Dean and her three children from East London, were visitors in the Transvaal. Brother and Sister Trollip and family, of Port Elizabeth, were visitors at the Muir Home recently; they are visiting relatives in Johannesburg and Germiston. During the recent District Conference, Brother Evan P. Wright was sustained as Second Counsellor in the Ramah Branch Presidency and Neal Hancock, of Springs Branch, was ordained a deacon. From Brother I. C. Louw we learned of Brother Johnson, of Springs, being injured by a motor car. He was taken to the Far East Rand Hospital. He seemed to be making good progress.

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blessings without having his feelings exalted and from the depths of his soul thank Him who bestows upon us all our blessings.

That our Heavenly Father may continue His favour, that peace, comfort and satisfaction may abide in your homes; that these men who are in the various mission fields of the earth may be magnified before the people and exercise the authority that has been conferred upon them to build, not destroy, but to build a better world that our Heavenly Father will be delighted to honour and to bless because of its righteousness.

The Lord bless you in your missionary fields of labour, and all of you men in your various callings, all you women in your homes and abiding places, and the organizations with which you are identified. May the Lord add His blessings, and I pray that His Spirit may continue with us to-day, henceforth and forever; and when the time comes that we shall stand before the Great Judge, where we all will report some day, that we will find our record of such a character that the Lord shall say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful in a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." I pray that this may be our blessing and the blessing of every soul that we can influence by lives of righteousness and worthy example, all of which I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Deseret News.

## MATTHEW COWLEY

ELDER MATTHEW COWLEY'S appointment as our newest apostle at the October Conference is the pleasing news recently received from the headquarters of the Church. He had just recently returned from eight years' service as President of the New Zealand Mission. Reports indicate his appointment has met with wide approval and already it has been our privilege in most of the branches of the Mission to show by the uplifted hand our willingness to sustain him in this most holy calling. His late father, Mathias F. Cowley, was formerly a member of the same Council. His mother was Abbie Hyde Cowley.

In 1914 Elder Cowley filled his first mission to New Zealand and returned in 1919. He is a lawyer by profession. He is married to Elva Taylor Cowley and have a daughter and a son.

Due to many years of church service Elder Cowley becomes a pillar of strength in the Church. We rejoice in this appointment.

**Branch Teacher's Message.**—From page 8.

usually benefited. Often it provides both the opportunity to serve and recreation. Jonathan Edwards has said, "A man of right spirit is not a man of narrow and private views, but is greatly interested and concerned for the good of the community to which he belongs, and particularly of the city or village in which he resides, and for the true welfare of the society of which he is a member."

In order to help people we must really love them, and to love them brings responsibility. If this be true, then we should expect to share their burdens and sorrows as well as joys, and well might we in sharing their burdens acquire the strength to bear our own. In the field of service there never need be unemployment. There is a job for each one of us.

"A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;

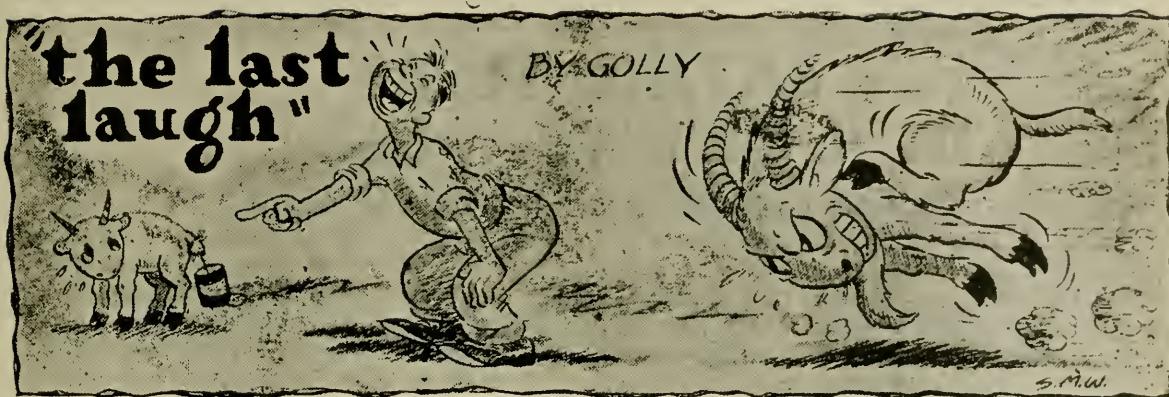
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;

Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense

Of service which thou renderest."

—Browning.

Improvement Era.

**Heavenly.**

"What kind of woman did you marry?"  
"She's an angel—that's what she is."  
"Mine's still livin'."

Navy News.

**Baffling.**

"What's harder than buying a present for a girl who has everything?"  
"Buying one for a girl who wants everything."

Case and Comments.  
□ □**Truthful.**

"I shall illustrate what I have in mind," said the Gospel Doctrine teacher as he erased everything from the blackboard.

Hospital Courier, adopted.

**Imagine!**

Fond mother (visiting school): "My son has such original ideas, don't you think?"  
Teacher: "Yes, especially in spelling."

Sugar House Bulletin.

**Appetising.**

"Well, nurse, how is the patient?"  
"Oh, I'm giving him the figs you ordered,  
Doctor, but all he wants is dates."

Navy News.

**Buzzard.**

The person who is always up in the air and harping on something isn't necessarily an angel.

Sunshine News.

**Tugged.**

Sailor: "Yes, ma'am, that's a man-o-war."  
Lady: "Indeed. And what is the little ship just in front?"  
Sailor: "Oh, that's just a tug."  
Lady: "Yes, of course, a tug-of-war! I've heard of them."

Navy News.

**Boot.**

Sophomore: "Were you ever bothered with athlete's foot?"  
Freshman: "Yes, once when the captain of the rugby team caught me with his girl."

Case and Comments.



"I've been trying to see you all week. When may I have an appointment?"  
"Make a date with my secretary."  
"I did, and we had a grand time, but I still want to see you."

**Could be true.**

Man is not rational—he keeps looking for home atmosphere in a hotel and hotel service at home.



Grafter: One who chisels a career instead of carving it.



A budget is a method of worrying about money before you spend it, as well as afterwards.

# EATING MEAT IN IDOL'S TEMPLES . . .

In the days of Paul there were people who felt that obeying the commandments of the Lord meant a restriction of their personal liberties, and therefore they refused to obey in all things. At times they went so far as to flaunt their violation before others more faithful, apparently to demonstrate that they were not going to be limited by anyone advising them contrary to their own wishes.

Paul knew the effect of such acts upon others, and especially upon those who were not strong in the faith. Weak ones often take licence from the acts of others, particularly if these others happen to hold position in the Church. And he knew that taking such licence leads to sin, and sin to condemnation and distress.

He therefore took the matter up with these individuals who felt they were being restricted, and pointed out to them the evil of setting a bad example. The particular thing these persons were doing was "eating meat in idol's temples." Said Paul:

"Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols? ... And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died. But when ye sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." (1Cor:9.)

There are several important points here. All Latterday Saints should study them carefully. If we presume to take liberties with the commandments, let us beware lest

"this liberty of ours become a stumbling block to them that are weak." In Paul's day, those who committed these violations sat at meat in idol's temples, among other things. And they set an example of disobedience. In our day we still have people who "sit at meat," although not in idol's temples, and they too set an example of disobedience. How often are persons who know better seen at luncheon counters violating the Word of Wisdom? How often are those who know better seen violating the Sabbath Day on the golf course, in the garden, or in pleasure resorts? Do they take heed lest their examples "become a stumbling block to them that are weak"?

Then there are those who set examples in dishonesty. If one held in respect reveals himself to be dishonest in some transaction, what is his effect upon others? And there are those who lack virtue, those who lack an appreciation for truth, and lie; those who show disrespect for their parents, and who do so many other things which are observed "by the weak" and have their effect.

It is a serious thing, when we contemplate it, for as Paul said, "through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died. When ye sin against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ."

For years the leaders of the Church have advised the people to avoid the very appearance of evil, for even though one may not be evil at heart, if he does something that has the appearance of evil, it may be interpreted as a thing from which others may take licence, and then the weak ones sin.

The path of righteousness is the path of safety. Keep the commandments, live above reproach, help others to salvation, lift up your fellow men.

*Deseret News.*